

# SMB:

## SARATOGA MUSIC BOOSTERS

A 501(c)(3) organization supporting music programs in the Saratoga Union School District and Saratoga High School

### Table of Contents

<b>Attendees.....</b>	<b>2</b>
Executive Board.....	2
Music Directors.....	2
Booster Members.....	2
<b>October Minutes Approval.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Spirit Wear Update.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Cookie Dough Sales Update.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>RMS Choir Wishlist.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Financials Update.....</b>	<b>7</b>
Cash Flow.....	7
October Financials Update.....	7
Budget vs. Actuals.....	7
October Transactions Approval.....	8
<b>SHS 2025 Hall of Fame Update and Budget Approval.....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>SMB Taxes filed in October.....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>RMS Winter Guard Update.....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Update on CMEA, Concerto Competition, International Travel.....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>SMB Newsletter - SMB Publicity.....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>New Parliamentarian.....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Directors’ Report.....</b>	<b>12</b>
Isabel McPherson.....	12
Jemal Ramirez.....	12
Jon Jow.....	13
Beth Nitzan.....	13
Michael Boitz.....	14
Jason Shiuan.....	14
<b>Miscellaneous.....</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Summary of Motions.....</b>	<b>15</b>

Regular Meeting in-person on Nov 12, 2024

Attendance: total number of attendees = 23

# Attendees

## Executive Board

Name	Role
Alicia de Fuentes	President
Tista Kapoor	Co-VP Donations
Ramya Vasu	Parliamentarian / SUSD & RMS Program Donations Chair
Bharti Ramaswamy	Co-Recording Secretary
Sneha Melkote	Treasurer/ Pancake Breakfast Treasurer
Josh Rupert	Incoming Parliamentarian
Mrudula Prashant	Co-VP Donations

## Music Directors

Name	School
Beth Nitzan	SHS
Jason Shiuan	SHS
Michael Boitz	SHS
Jon Jow	RMS
Isabel McPherson	RMS
Jemal Ramirez	RMS

## Booster Members

Name	Role
Richard Aochi	Controller
Joyce Koh-Fernandez	Publicity
Beryl Liu	Publicity
Joshua Zhang	IT/Google Administrator
Oliver Su	Student Webmaster
Suzie Kim	RMS Orchestra
Dongni Chen	SHS Band
Vrinda Gopal	SHS Percussion Liaison
Nick M. Nguyen	Member
Susan Farrales-Nguyen	Member

Alicia calls the meeting to order at 7:05pm

## October Minutes Approval

(Presented by Alicia de Fuentes)

**Alicia:** Much has happened since our last meeting. October minutes were circulated. Are there any questions or comments about last month's meeting minutes? If not, may we have a motion to approve them?

**Mrudula** makes the motion to approve the minutes, seconded by **Dongni**. May the record show that the motion passed unanimously.

# Spirit Wear Update

(Presented by Alicia de Fuentes on behalf of Vrinda Gopal)

**Vrinda:** We had opened up spirit wear in September. On popular demand, I had to reopen the order. We still have a few boxes left for pick up, I am going to send a reminder to the parents to pick them up.

**Alicia:** Is this a tradition that we are going to do every year?

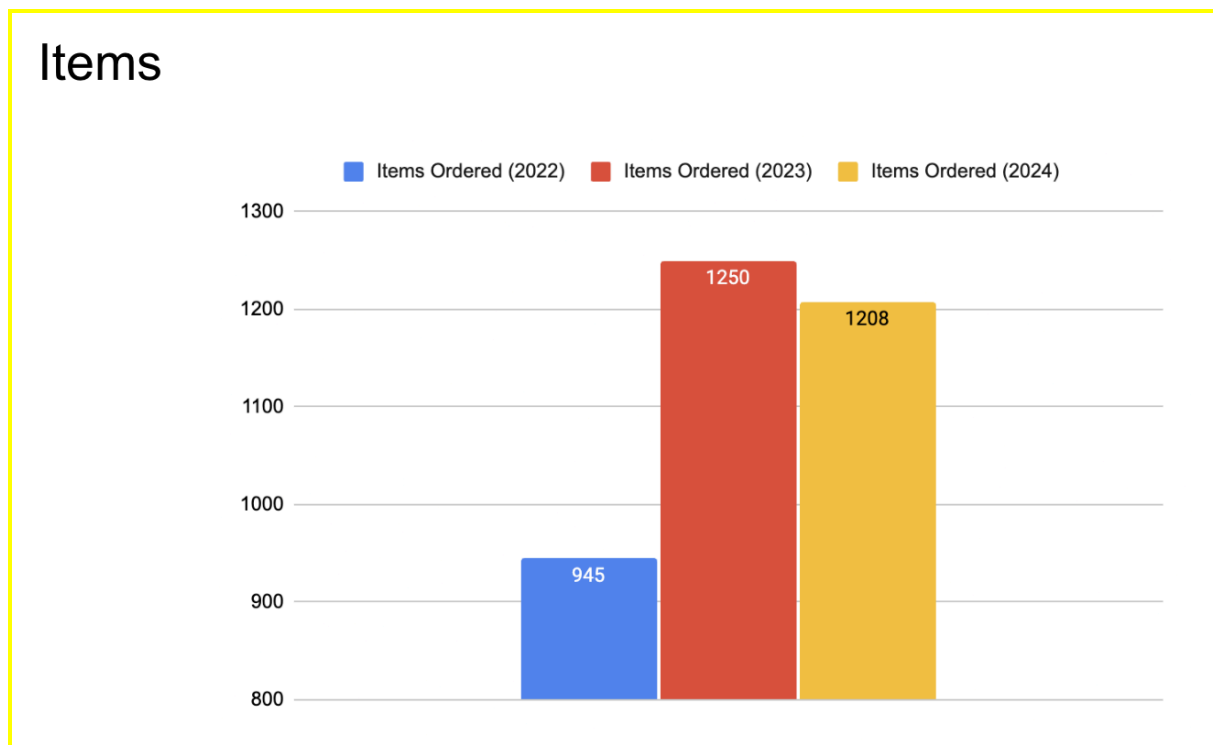
**Vrinda:** I can continue next year, yes. I can then hand it over to somebody for the future. We had a lot of people interested.

# Cookie Dough Sales Update

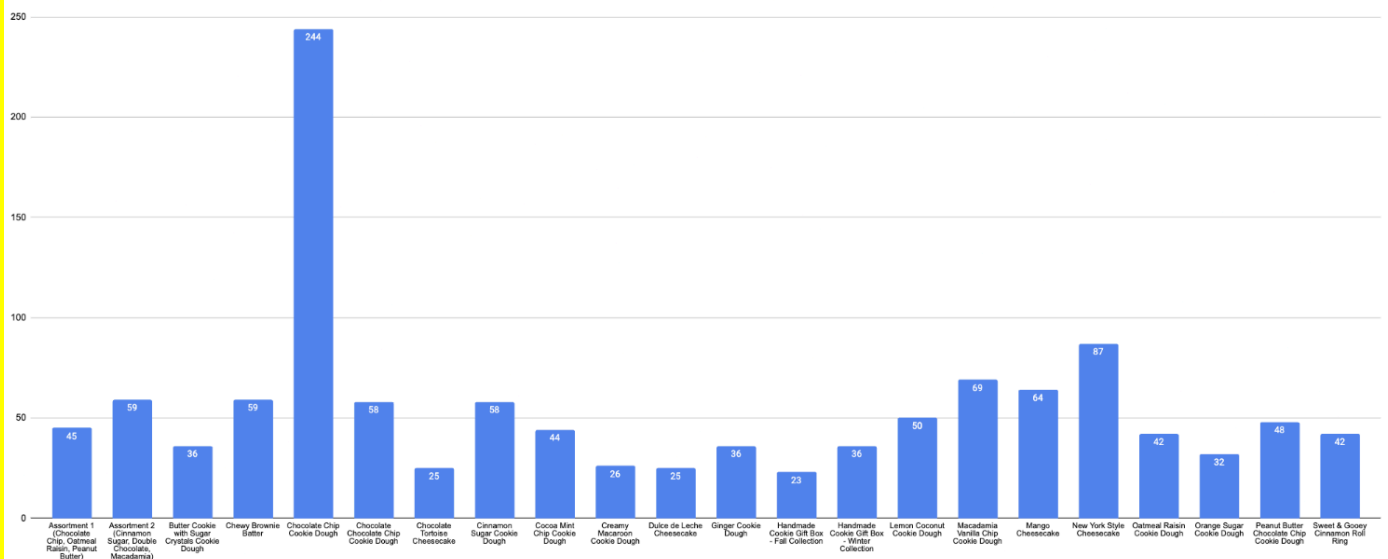
(Presented by Oliver Su)

**Oliver:** This year was a great success. We did sell fewer items, but last year was also lower cost. So in the end we still did better than last year.

Every year we change the items that we have. Last year we tried out the puffs, the dips and stuff. Handmade gift boxes sold pretty well. Chocolate-chip cookies sold the most.

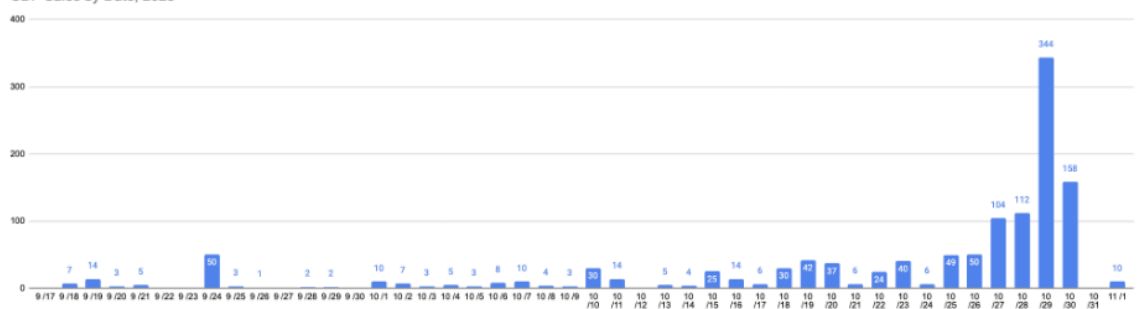


## By Item

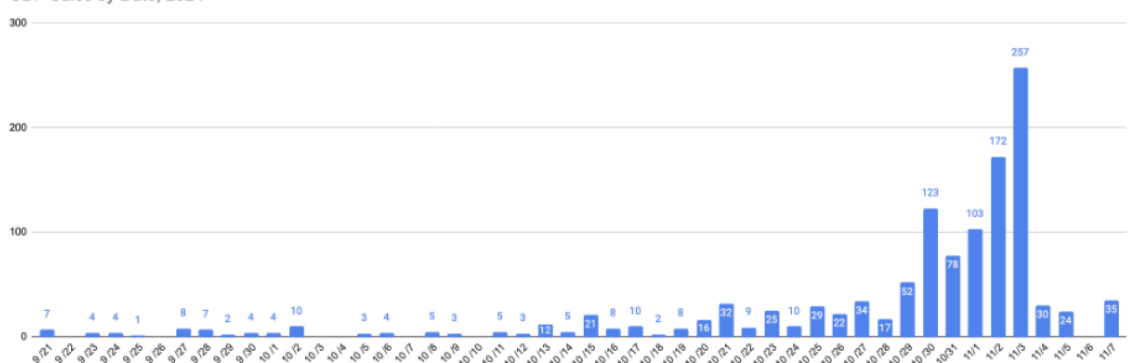


## By Date

CDF Sales by Date, 2023



CDF Sales by Date, 2024



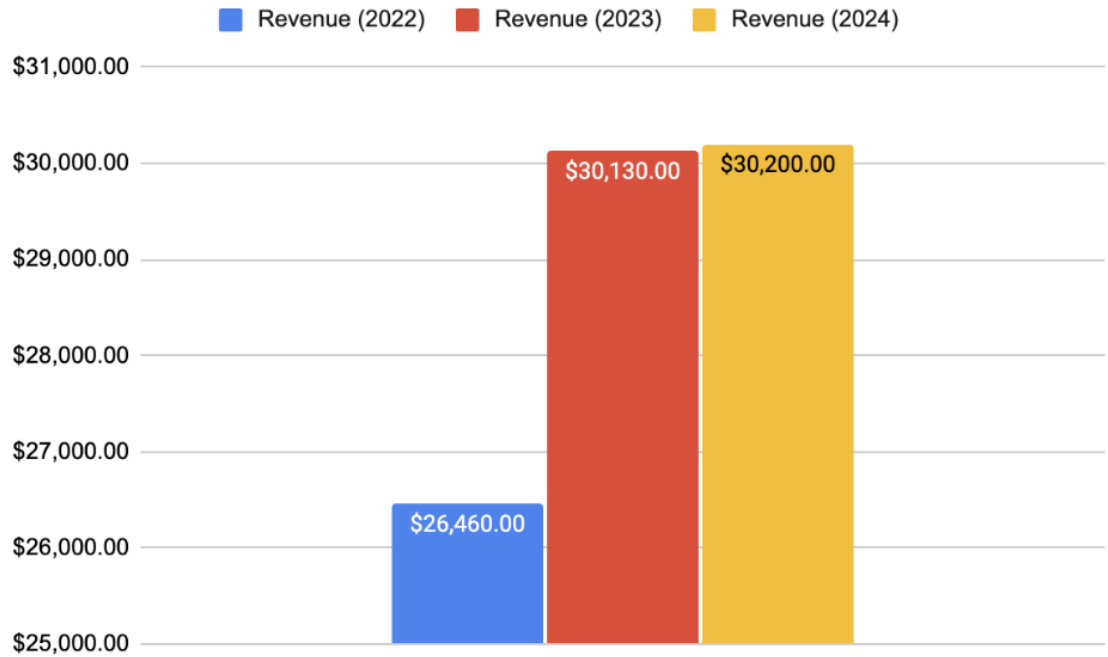
Top chart is sales from last year, the one on the bottom is this year.

**Alicia:** The spike is after the town hall.

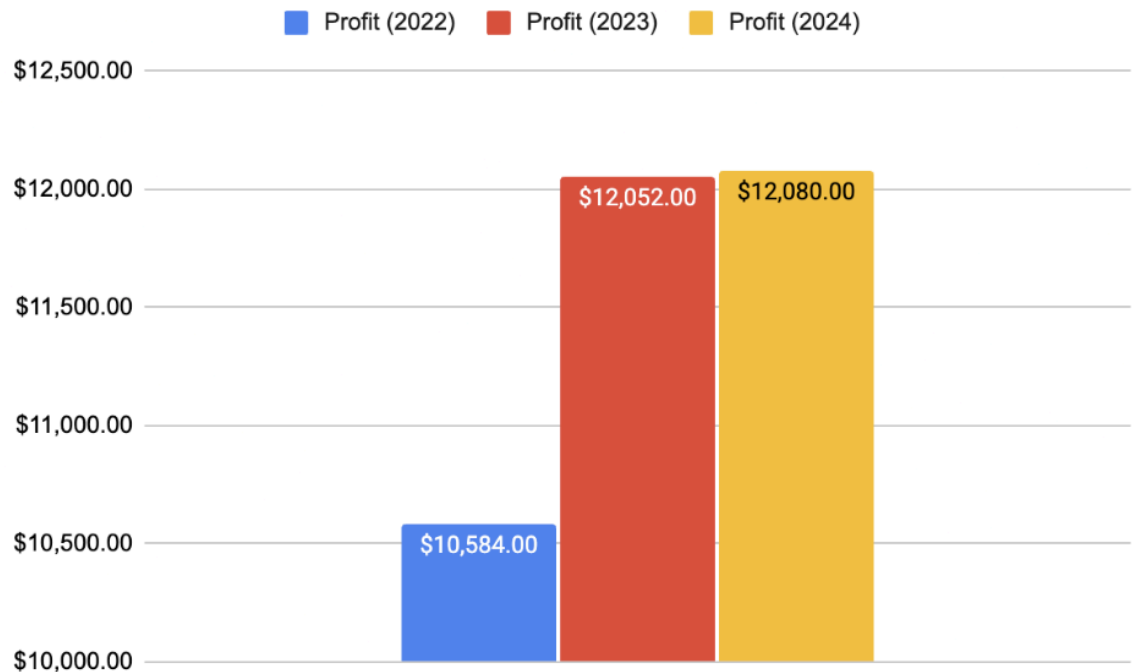
**Jon:** We see a spike at the end because we combine many orders into one.

Revenue on the next one - record year. 2022: 26460, 2023: 30,130, 2024: 30,200. Same with profits - this year is more than \$12K.

# Revenue



# Profit



**Sneha:** What happens to all the profit from cookie dough and pancake breakfast?

**Alicia:** It goes into the general fund.

Thank you Oliver. Cookie dough distribution starts from what time to what time?

**Oliver:** Distribution is this Friday, starts at 10.30am and ends at 6pm. Right now we have about 65% of our volunteer slots filled.

**Alicia:** Music directors - could you help with a little call for volunteers?

**Suzie:** Where do you sign up?

**Alicia:** There is a sign up URL, can someone send it to Joyce and Suzie?

**Oliver:** I can send it right now.

## RMS Choir Wishlist

(Presented by Jemal Ramirez)

**Jemal:** As you know, I requested - I brought the receipts - 2 JBL speakers to be purchased. I took a gamble and already bought them, but saved receipts. The speakers will help us rehearse effectively, especially with recorded accompaniment that we use most of the time. They will also be able to function here at McAfee. I talked to the coordinator at McAfee, and there are no monitors to be used on stage, as far as I am told. During the last concert, the speakers were blaring far away from the singers, from the wings - and it had a negative effect on the performance. The speakers were 30-40 feet away from the singers, covering up their very young voices.

The second concert way to get around that is to use a lot of acappella, which is a good thing to do. However, certain pieces are more vibrant when they have accompaniment. We can also use speakers for monitor purposes, so that the singers can hear the accompaniment - not overpowering their voices. If we connect these speakers to the house system at McAfee, the audience can hear the sound too.

The description said they are portable - which is true, but these are more of legit PA speakers. They are low end in terms of price, more economic version.

 [SUSD Speakers\\_Chair - Ramirez.pdf](#)

I initially requested the school, but my request was denied. We've had enough time to rehearse with them, and I am hoping that they are approved by SMB. We have been using the pair of speakers, and they are working great. This opens up possibilities - not only at McAfee, but also on campus, or bringing it to a retirement home or some similar place.

**Alicia:** Can we use it for the Christmas tree lighting?

**Jemal:** They already have their own. Music teachers typically need equipment 2 weeks ago, so timing is not great in that sense. I took a gamble and purchased them myself. \$800 tab.

**Alicia:** Is that plus tax?

**Jemal:** Yes, it includes tax. Ordered two speakers, first one cost \$393.74 and the second one cost \$382.80 - don't know why one was \$10 more.

**Alicia:** Do you see this being exclusively for choir?

**Jemal:** Well, they could be used for other purposes too - percussion can use it to play recordings of Beginning Band, as if they are in the same room.

**Alicia:** Can it be used outside of the music department, for any event?

**Jemal:** No, it is not planned for other purposes right now.

**Alicia:** The reason I am asking is - an instrument is clearly for music only. But with speakers, they can be used outside of the music department too. How can you guarantee that it is used only for music? The essence of SMB is that things purchased are used exclusively for music.

**Jemal:** That is a great question. There is a serial number for each speaker, we could tag them to the music department. However, in my years at Redwood, anything belonging to the music room will be left alone. But that is a great question.

**Alicia:** Does anyone have any questions?

**Isabel:** We have amplifiers that have started hissing a lot lately. These speakers are something I can definitely use in the classroom. Nobody comes to the room and just takes things.

**Ramya:** What was the reason the district said they wouldn't purchase this?

**Jemal:** They said they don't have the funds.

**Josh:** Sounds like something for our new school board member to investigate ☺. Having said that, I don't think we should set this as the precedent going forward. We need to make sure that all purchases come to us first *before* purchasing, so that we are not looking at it retroactively. But I have no problem with it this time.

**Jon:** To compare, when we got the Orchestra program some equipment in the past, I believe the district gave some seed money.

**Alicia:** How do we access the seed money?

**Jon:** That is an administrative question to look into.

**Ramya:** Was there anything given for the Choir?

**Jon:** Not as far as i know.

**Alicia:** So, I explained to Mr. Ramirez that this is not how we do business at SMB. But I did not explain the exact process - how it is going to be. I apologize for not explaining the process clearly Mr. Ramirez. What is the total?

**Jemal:** \$776.54 with tax


**Alicia:** May we have a motion to approve?

**Josh** approves, **Suzie** seconds. Motion passed unanimously

## October Financials Update

(Presented by Sneha Melkote)

### Cash Flow

 Cashflow 2024-2025 - October 2024.pdf

**Sneha:** In cash flow, everything is going on as usual. Program wishlist is at \$40,000. This is as of October. There is one check for Mr. Jow's wish list which we signed today. And then Mr. Ramirez's speaker amount will also come.

**Ramya:** How much is unallocated?

**Sneha:** Starting number is \$117,129. We are using that towards the program wishlist.

**Ramya:** Okay.

**Sneha:** Other questions?

### Balance Sheet

 BalanceSheet.pdf

**Sneha:** These are the balances in the bank. The new BOFA checks have been going out. Those are the balances of the bank accounts.

**Ramya:** Did we spend on Redwood uniforms? What is \$72,972?

**Sneha:** It is just the allocation.

### Budget vs. Actuals

 BudgetvsActualsBudget\_FY25\_PL-FY25PL.pdf

**Josh:** Is the delta between budget and revenue - like the parent donations for the various events - is that what is causing the deltas, because we did not get all donations?

**Alicia:** We never get 100% of the donations asked.

**Josh:** Like choir trip for instance.

**Alicia:** They have until April to raise funds for the choir trip.

**Ramya:** What about SHS?

**Jason:** That is for the Chicago trip.

**Alicia:** We are doing the winter trip and winter percussion separately. My concern is that we may not be allocating correctly when we are separating.

**Ramya:** For the Redwood Choir, we got no income.

**Alicia:** Nitin sent me an email asking where they should pay. My request if you could please - printout hard copies of the ask. If one parent doesn't know where to pay, other parents may be in the same situation. We have to work together to get all parents to participate.

**Ramya:** What comes under the Redwood Band Sectionals?

**Jon:** All the stuff in 4221 also goes to 4223

**Sneha:** We have to take a closer look at all these buckets.

**Ramya:** Does the color guard amount \$735 seem right? Can we send another reminder?

**Jon:** Yes we can, I am making a note.

**Ramya:** Thank you.

**Alicia:** Any other questions, observations from the team?

**Sneha:** Cookie dough will still come in the November list right?

**Alicia:** That is correct.

**Ramya:** What about 5th grade donations?

**Alicia:** We do not ask 5th graders' parents for donations. But if people do donate, the money is just there and we do not spend it for other programs.

**Richard:** I am curious about the negative \$3,254 for SHS Orchestra. It looks odd.

**Alicia:** I will wait for Sneha to look into that one, it does look odd. We had someone who paid the full amount of \$3,254 for Orchestra, then they matched it. Later they realized they could have done only 50%.

We said we cannot return it, but they can keep it for next year. Is that it?

Let's look at this offline and communicate what we find.

**Sneha:** Okay

**Nick:** I have a question about income vs. budget for the concert. Why is there such a huge difference?

**Alicia:** Yes, we need to fix it. It is a bit of a mess right now.

**Jason:** Orchestra income should not be that big. It should be broken down into buckets.

**Sneha:** Yes, we need to do that. We must come up with creative ways to categorize.

## October Transactions Approval

 TransactionListwithSplits.pdf

**Alicia:** This reflects all our deposits, positive or negative. What's important here is that we oversee that the expenses have a check number and there is no missing check.

Let's see - we are going to ask for a motion to approve checks starting from **1239** to **1282**. Do I hear a motion to approve?

**Dongni** approves, **Mrudula** seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

## SHS 2025 Hall of Fame Update and Budget Approval

**Alicia:** Mr. Louie wants to bring communities and boosters together, which is a great thing. Sports, SMB, PTSO, Speech and Debate, The SHS Foundation are confirmed so far. We drew up an overreach budget - the total amount adds up to 50k. We are trying to divide it up evenly - asking an approval of \$10k per participant - for SMB to participate. Do we have any questions regarding the Hall of Fame?

**Dongni:** What does the 10k give us?



**Alicia:** Any profit we make will be divided equally among all booster participants.

**Mrudula:** Are profits from tickets?

**Alicia:** For now we are doing only tickets.

**Ramya:** What are the dates?

**Alicia:** I don't have the dates yet, but tentatively the end of September or beginning of October. Around Homecoming, for the next school year.

**Josh:** Is it going to be like a Carnival?

**Alicia:** No, it is going to be formal. Like Villa Ragusa in Campbell.

**Suzie:** Are Gala and HOF combined?

**Alicia:** No, the Gala was only for 50 years of SMB, it was a one-time thing.

We are asking for approval of up to 10k for the Hall of Fame at Villa Ragusa. Also, The SHS Foundation will be covering expenses, but I am going to see if I can oversee the web ticket sales.

**Josh** approves, **Ramya** seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

**Josh:** Do we know if the other boosters are going to say yes?

**Alicia:** I don't know yet.

**Nick:** 50k is a lot, we roughly spend 20k for my dental group events at this venue. You can do a lot with 50k.

**Alicia:** Thank you everyone for approving.

**Dongni:** What if any of the participating boosters do not approve 10k?

**Alicia:** They already agreed, so I will be very surprised if they come back and say no.

## SMB Taxes filed in October

**Alicia:** Thank you Richard, we finished doing our taxes. Any questions on taxes?

## RMS Winter Guard Update

(Presented by Jon Jow)

**Jon:** First meeting of the school year we were talking about having winter percussion at RMS - the same version that SHS has. We have been pushing out the messaging to RMS families - there was a couple of months of back and forth. We are hopefully on track to get started next week. For the budget to propose and approve, I will work with Mr. Clark. We may need approval via email in December. This is open to any student at RMS, being in another class is not a requirement.

**Alicia:** Are we planning for any little workshop?

**Jon:** Yes, as soon as we can get started. Will keep you posted on start date etc.

**Alica:** That is great, thank you

**Joyce:** Is this going to be after school?

**Jon:** Yes, it is after school, there is a Google form for those interested. It is all in ParentSquare.

**Ramya:** Just sent screenshots to you Joyce. The latest one is from today.

**Jon:** Today's post has photos and links, please have a look.

**Alicia:** Are we good to move on?

# Update on CMEA, Concerto Competition, International Travel

**Jason:** Thank everyone for so much advocacy and support over the last few months. I am very grateful that the community cares so much. I know that all HS parents received an update from me. Non HS parents - interim superintendent and assistant superintendent invited me and Mr. Boitz for dinner. I am cautiously optimistic.

In regards to CMEA, Mr. Heath Rocha reached out to other colleagues - why don't we do it this way? He has given the okay to host CMEA. We are trying to mend that relationship - at that time we thought we weren't going to do it. Had to truncate, availability is less. But we are having it this coming school year. It is going to be in March.

Concerto competition - reaching out to adjudicators. That is a go as well. Mr. Rocha is making sure everything is easy to move through - there is a process, a little bit of a scramble. But leaning on some friends.

International travel - when we asked Dr. Mukherjee and Mr. Rocha - they said yes we support it! They do not want to do anything to not allow it. Mr. Rocha has a background in special ed - you cannot always have it in black and white in special ed. He understands and wants to work with us to find a solution. Burned our Japan opportunity for this year and now we need to convince them we are serious contenders again for next year. We are currently trying to reassure them as well as explain that our district has new leadership.

Long story short, when we bring percussion to Chicago for the Midwest clinic, the same company is bringing a Japanese HS to perform in Chicago. Ms. Hasegawa and Mr. Boitz have reached out to them already - trying to find a slot to sit down and see what we can do in the summer of 2026. Not 100% Japan - but that is very much the aim.

**Alicia:** Even if Japan does not come through, it is still a stress release that an international trip is still a go. But I am still cautious - they have to earn our trust.

**Josh:** This is still temporary - he may not be the superintendent next year. So it is good to be cautiously optimistic. Our esteemed president was the driving force behind this, thank you!

**Parent:** Would seniors be able to go?

**Jason:** We have always brought the graduating class.

**Michael:** We would not do it without them. The goal is for every kid to have that experience before they graduate.

**Parent:** What if we end up with a different superintendent next year?

**Josh:** He is just interim - he still has a good chance of him getting selected for next year. But there is no guarantee.

**Jason:** We have to push this through and get the approval in writing before the end of the school year.

**Joyce:** Thank you so much to the music directors for not walking away, and standing up for our students.

**Boitz:** We have a dream for our kids, the last thing in the world is to have parents fight for this. Being a parent is hard enough already, we should be thanking you.

**Josh:** Do all disciplines go on international trips?

**Boitz:** Yes, that has been the tradition. It is a logistical feat, but that's how we do it.

**Nick:** How long is the trip usually?

**Boitz:** 2 weeks. Europe usually works well- because they have a lot of music festivals in summer. Japan is a little more difficult.

**Josh:** Do families travel other than the chaperoning?

**Boitz:** Yes, we do the shadow tour. 3 or 4 buses for the shadowing folks. Whole families went in 2022. Becomes a community event, it is a lot of fun.

**Joshua:** It was great fun when I went last time, I would like to come in 2026 if everything goes well.

## SMB Newsletter - SMB Publicity

(Presented by Joshua Zhang & Oliver Su)

**Oliver:** Lot of communication has been going via Whatsapp groups or Instagram or facebook, but there is no guarantee that every parent is on social media. So we brainstormed some ideas - one suggestion is to put together a monthly newsletter.

📅 11.12.2024 Newsletter Proposal

**Alicia:** I love the intention.

**Oliver:** Thinking of sending a summary of meetings, financials, gala, pancake breakfast, news - that sort of thing. Reminders for deadlines, volunteer opportunities etc.

Want to have effective communication with the parents, and also transparency. Parents just want to know what is going on, they are putting in so much money into SMB. Not everyone may attend the meetings.

Alicia can review for quality before sending over.

There is the concern about spam - we can add an option to unsubscribe. There is no additional cost for this, we will use Google Workspace.

**Alicia:** It is definitely going to be very useful for information management - we can put information that we want to put out there. That's a bonus. Our music directors can have accounts created in our SMB workspace, would that be useful?

**Boitz:** Yeah, we can talk about that further.

**Jason:** Student spotlight, program spotlight etc. can also be included in the newsletter.

**Ramya:** Will this be on demand subscription?

**Joshua:** I already have a group setup with the parent contacts we currently have - we will start sending the newsletter to this group.

**Ramya:** For RMS or 5th grade, most parents are not going to be vested into subscribing to this.

**Joshua:** You can choose the audience you want to send this to - you can send it to all, or just the 6th to 8th graders etc.

**Oliver:** Do we want to send the Summary and Financials?

**Alicia:** We can include links perhaps - but we already have the minutes and financials posted online. Do not want redundant information. Directors - please reach out to Joshua for getting your SMB account created.

## New Parliamentarian

**Alicia:** Ramya has won the position of SUSD board member. Thank you for stepping up! This means we need a new parliamentarian.

**Ramya:** Thank you all for your support. I have a nomination - I would like to nominate Josh Rupert.

**Josh:** I love this group, but I will see until the end of this year. I have to be approved, but yes I am willing to step up for the rest of the year.

**Ramya:** Anyone else nominating themselves or anyone else?

**Dongni:** I signed up as percussion liaison, but Anthony is not doing winter percussion. I nominate Lily to be percussion liaison.

**Ramya:** For my RMS color guard liaison, I need a nomination

**Joyce:** I think my name is already on it.

**Ramya:** We will figure it out.

**Alicia:** Motion to approve Josh Rupert for parliamentarian role, Lily as percussion liaison - **Vrinda** approves, **Mrudula** seconds.

## Directors' Report

### Isabel McPherson

We had our performances - all kids had fun. Full steam ahead for the winter concert - orchestra is 3 days after Thanksgiving. But that's ok - trying to combine band and orchestra students together. The field trip went well - students enjoyed the music. It was a good introduction to an orchestra concert. Students will switch instruments in January. Winter sing-along is also happening for elementary students. I got to work with the marching band this season - thank you for the opportunity.

### Jemal Ramirez

The kids are going to perform at the Christmas tree lighting on Nov 29th.

**Alicia:** At what time?

**Jemal:** They told us to get there at 5, but not sure when the middle school students will get their turn. Concert with HS jazz is on December 3rd. I also signed up for the Music in the Parks event - spoke to Jow about funding it. The date right now is Sat, Apr 26. That would be the Great America competition.

**Alicia:** That will be a lot of fun for the kids.

**Jemal:** Recently started using MakeMusic Cloud - which is a computer program. It has been going well for beginning band and choir students. I am still figuring out how much is too much; we are using it for program checks for notes and rhythms. Young musicians are not used to having feedback all the time, which the app keeps giving; it is a little frustrating. The speakers are working really well, helping me focus on the singing aspect as opposed to conducting or playing the piano. Thanks for approving the speakers. Trying to make things fun and educational. Beginning percussion is performing on Dec 11. Learning how to set-up - staying on bell kits and perc pads. First crash course on all different instruments - cymbals, snare drums, concert bass drum etc.

Next 3.5 weeks if we set things up, by the 11th they know what they are doing, and will be comfortable on stage.

**Alicia:** What grades do you have?

**Jemal:** All 6th graders this year. It is a lot of fun, but also a lot of effort. Need to check if they have dressed correctly, have all music in the binder, find it, find equipment, know where to put it back, and so on. That's about it.

**Alicia:** Are you feeling comfortable now with choir?

**Jemal:** Yeah, and I have done some new materials. I have been teaching band for over 20 years, doing some research on choir now for the last year and a half. I like that, like learning about music.

**Ramya:** Do you teach percussion?

**Jemal:** Beginning percussion, yes I do.

**Ramya:** For the Christmas tree lighting, are we going to do a hot chocolate table with SMB sign on it?

**Alicia:** Does the city have a problem with this?

**Ramya:** No

**Alicia:** Then we are good.

**Ramya:** Mr. Ramirez - I will be there from 3pm setting things up, you can call me if you need anything.

## Jon Jow

- MESH is starting back up! While this is not an RMS program, we are very appreciative of our SHS students and alumni and their determination and tenacity in making this happen for our students and their families.
- Color Guard is doing well and continuing to work on their show for their first competitive spring winter guard season. We have reserved three competition dates for the spring and will keep you posted of updates.
- Our SF Symphony field trip was a wonderful evening for our intermediate band and orchestra students! We avoided the rain and had a fantastic time hearing live music performed by our very own SF Symphony. Thanks goes out to our chaperones for their help and assistance in making this trip possible.
- Planning for our February Disney trip is now underway! We will have approximately 97 students traveling this year in two full buses. This year's trip will feature our traditional performance as well as backstage Disney workshops.
- Concerts next month: Orchestras (12/4), Choir & Jazz Band with SHS (12/5), Bands (12/11).

We also got discounts for Coco symphony, and got really nice seats. It is a movie on screen - but music is all live. Great for young students.

Next month we have live versions of Elf, Titanic and things like that. Sometimes Harry Potter in San Jose - really good opportunity.

**Dongni:** Are we bringing back the middle school marching band?

**Jon:** I left it up to the students and parents. Only if the parents want it. We need to have more time freed up. Marching band or Disney Trip? I am limited by my time - I want to get Winter guard and Winter percussion started.

**Ramya:** Coco field trip - donations for the trip went to SUSD. What happened to corporate matching?

**Alicia:** There was no corporate matching, at least it did not come to us. SMB had nothing to do with the trip. Is it possible to corporate match the donation to school?

**Jon:** It is possible, some parents are able to do it.

**Ramya:** Parents are assuming that the corporate match is going to SMB, we need to clarify with the school that it isn't. That is why I am bringing this up with the President and the Treasurer.

**Alicia:** This is something we can clarify via the newsletter. That will be good.

## Beth Nitzan

It feels like forever ago - the choir sang the national anthem at homecoming. It was a fun time, with the support of our band and dance teams. And we won, which is a shock.

The students also went to the West Valley choral invitational. It was hosted at St. Andrews. We walked over, and I forgot that there are no sidewalks in Saratoga. But we made it back ☺

It was a new thing for everybody to hear - choral music - that was fun.

A bunch of students have been accepted at regional choir - it is a precursor to all-state. The organizer asked me to bring some instrumentals - so we brought 3 percussionists, 5 string players. They did so well, we are proud of them. They were treated like pros - everyone was absolutely raving about them. Great to have all our disciplines perform.

**Alicia:** That is fantastic.

## Michael Boitz

**Boitz:** 3 people texted my cell phone on Sunday, saying that our kids did so well. I also received an email from one of the Organizers, asking for the message to be forwarded to the principal.

It dawns on me that what we do here is not possible without the collaboration of this community, and that of SMB. This letter coming from outside - made me really happy. The kids love what they do - not just in the classroom or with the teachers. You cannot keep up with this place, or with these people. SoFi was a miraculous place - the stadium is fantastic. It was a wonderful event - the volunteering was very hard work by the parents. When kids see that kind of work ethic, it is a great role model for them.

Sean Clark is already on another tour - and everyone is already on to the next thing. Great energy, thanks to everyone here.

We've had an interesting last couple of years - we would not be here without this group. When we do something, we do it for the right reasons. It is never about winning the trophy - it is always with the deepest meaning.

Thanks and hats off to SMB. Closing out 2024, turned out miraculous. It is going to get better!

## Jason Shiuan

**Jason:** I'll keep mine short. Senior night showcase was amazing - everyone was huddled around after class. Awesome to celebrate every single one of them.

Marching band went to the expo, and it was a great performance. We also went to Cupertino High, a great performance there as well.

SoFi stadium was amazing, sharing some pictures that were taken ([link to pictures](#)).

Never been to SoFi, so did not know what to expect. The stadium is huge, at 70000 capacity. We had a lot of people, but only one section looked full. I echo everything Mr. Boitz said.

Upcoming events are WG and WP workshops. Budgets for RMS WP are also coming. For HS, we would want to get an e-vote.

The upcoming Tri-M Benefit concert is all student run. Set it up for McAfee, it is going to be great.

Percussion is going to the Midwest Clinic in Chicago. It is a huge honor. Preview concert is next Wednesday, in M101 - we have some guests coming. Tony Glausi, Dr. Terry Longshore, Max Longshore wrote two commissions / world premieres for the percussion studio. Scott Johnson (legendary percussion educator and performer) will also be a featured soloist. Another featured soloist, Ryan Lee (class of 2022) cannot make it for this performance due to travel constraints.

Jazz and choir - combining with RMS, Dec5 concert.

Jazz at Stanford Jazz Fall Festival on Dec 7

Band Dec 10

Orchestra Dec 12

I would like to take a moment to say thank you to all those who showed up at the board meeting and town hall. It was very humbling, and I am very grateful for all of your support.

**Boitz:** I have one more announcement to make regarding CMEA music association's **Don Shmear and Byron Hoyt Band Educator of the Year award**. Found out on Friday - this year's recipient is Mr. Jason Shiuan.

**Alicia:** Congratulations!

# Miscellaneous

**Ramya:** Are we going to do an information night at the HS for the 5th graders?

**Isabel:** There was an issue with the high school hosting this. Nothing planned at this time.

The meeting adjourned at 9:24 pm.

## Summary of Motions

Approval of October SMB Meeting Minutes	Mrudula moves, Dongni seconds, motion carries.
Approval of October transactions <b>1239</b> to <b>1282</b>	Dongni moves, Mrudula seconds, motion carries.
RMS Choir Wishlist	Josh moves, Suzie seconds, motion carries.
SHS 2025 Hall of Fame Update and Budget Approval	Josh moves, Ramya seconds, motion carries
Motion to approve Josh Rupert for parliamentarian role, Lily as percussion liaison	Vrinda approves, Mrudula seconds, motion carries

Bharti Ramaswamy/ Nisha Hebbalae  
Co-Recording Secretaries